

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 84
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Programme: Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)
Topic: Government funding
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Sinodinos asked:

Senator SINODINOS: Just a quick follow-up question, then. In terms of Tasmania as a gateway to Antarctica, how much, overall, is the federal government putting into the state to do with its Antarctic responsibilities? We seem to have a vision of it as a logistics hub for Antarctic activities.

Dr Wooding: Not all the money comes from the environment portfolio. There is the amount appropriated for the Antarctic Division. There are also other measures such as the Antarctic Gateway Partnership, the airport extension and a range of other measures across other portfolios. So I do not know that I can give you an answer of all of that together, but, certainly, it is in the order of somewhere up towards \$200 million. But we would have to take the figures on notice. We would have to pull the information from a number of sources.

Senator SINODINOS: This is in terms of initiatives since the change of government we are talking about? Can you take it on notice?

Dr Wooding: I will take it on notice. I think it is a cross-portfolio question.

Senator SINODINOS: If you could do it across portfolios, that would be good.

Dr Wooding: Yes.

Answer:

Since the change of Government the following three measures, totalling \$87 million, have been funded in Tasmania:

- \$24 million over three years for the Antarctic Gateway Partnership.
- \$25 million over five years for the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.
- \$38 million to upgrade the Hobart International Airport runway.

The Government has also, since the election, committed funding for a new icebreaker to replace the RSV Aurora Australis. This funding has been placed in the contingency reserve and the actual funding will be announced once the tender process for the new icebreaker has been completed and the project receives final approval.

The Government also continues to fund the Australian Antarctic programme, \$114.1 million in 2014-15.